

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
February 20, 2009**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at 30 South Meridian Street in Indianapolis on February 20, 2009.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: Gail Bardach, Sally Blankenship, Kathleen Lang, Joseph Trout, and Robert Altice, chair.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer and Kathryn Dolan provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the November 2008 meeting were approved.
4. **Lincoln Birthday Celebration.** The Committee discussed the Lincoln Birthday Celebration, held state-wide on February 12th. Jenny Bauer reported that the Supreme Court estimated that 500 attorneys and judges went to schools to talk about Lincoln and the law. Judge Altice, Judge Bardach, Judge Blankenship and Jenny Bauer shared their experiences in doing the classroom talks. Kathryn Dolan played a YouTube video on the Lincoln celebration that was prepared by the Supreme Court. Judge Altice thanked everyone in their efforts to make the Lincoln Birthday Celebration a big success.
5. **STAD's Public Access Committee.** Kathryn Dolan reported that Lilia Judson, Executive Director of the Division of State Court Administration, started the Public Access Committee with the goal of making the Supreme Court's websites more accessible. Ms. Judson requested that the Community Relations Committee review some of the proposals and suggest areas for improvement. Ms. Dolan showed the Committee a mock-up of a media page that would be added to the Indiana Courts website. It would have quick facts on the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the Tax Court. The Committee suggested having a link to trial court facts. The media page would also have a photo gallery (with approval from the Supreme Court and Appeals Court judges). Ms. Dolan also reported that the Public Access Committee has been discussing the use of Twitter to make transfer notices more accessible to the public. The Committee was not in favor of using Twitter and suggested posting the transfer list to the website once a week.
6. **Speakers Bureau Project.** Jenny Bauer showed a mock-up of the Speakers Bureau website to the Committee. She reported that she worked with Justin Harter at JTAC on the format for the page. Because there are not volunteers from every county, Mr. Harter suggested using a district format. Ms. Bauer also reported that once the website is approved by the Committee, thank you letters

from the Chief Justice will be sent to the initial volunteers and a press release will be sent to media outlets. The Speakers Bureau page will be hosted on the Supreme Court's "Courts in the Classroom" web page. Elizabeth Osborn plans to announce the Speakers Bureau to teachers through a list serve. The Committee approved the format of the website.

7. **Media Advisory Committee.** Judge Altice reported that he will invite the media members of the Judicial Advisory Committee on Media Relations to attend the next Community Relations Committee meeting.
8. **Next meeting.** The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee will be April 16th at 4:15 p.m. at the Indianapolis Hilton North Hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
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